

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 FEAE-00

OES-03 INT-05 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 AF-06

SAJ-01 (ISO) W

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R 091157Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5101

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN MOROCCO

1. FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WAS IN MOROCCO APRIL 7-8
IN PREPARATION FOR OFFICIAL VISIT OF GISCARD D'ESTAING
MAY 4-6, HOLDING TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH GOM FONMIN LARAKI
AND HOUR-LONG AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN. SAUVAGNARGUES
MADE NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING TOPICS TOUCHED ON
DURING HIS TALKS:

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS: SAUVAGNARGUES PRONOUNCED THESE TO
BE BASICALLY VERY GOOD, NOTING THAT PROBLEM OF PAYMENT FOR
EXPROPRIATED FRENCH LANDS HAD BEEN SETTLED DURING HIS TRIP TO
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MOROCCO LAST SUMMER. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO FRENCH ASSETS

BLOCKED HERE BY CURRENCY REGULATIONS, HE REMARKED THAT MINOR PROPERTY PROBLEM REMAINED INVOLVING LONG TIME FRENCH RESIDENTS WISHING TO RETURN TO FRANCE PERMANENTLY. HE HOPED FOR CONTINUED MOROCCAN UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, AND THOUGHT PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED BY TIME OF GISCARD VISIT.

3. MIDDLE EAST: FRANCE AND MOROCCO, SAID SAUVAGNARGUES, WISHED TO SEE RAPID RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH VIEW TOWARDS GENERAL SETTLEMENT COVERING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, QUESTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND RIGHT OF STATES IN REGION TO INTERNATIONALLY GUARANTEED FRONTIERS. IN FRENCH VIEW, HE SAID, THIS INFINITELY MORE USEFUL APPROACH THAN ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON MILITARILY SECURE BORDERS, WHICH "CANNOT LEAD TO SETTLEMENT BECAUSE IT IMPLIES PERPETUATION OF OCCUPATION OF ISRAELI-HELD TERRITORIES". FRANCE, HE SAID, IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, AND IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE IN EARLY PHASE, ALTHOUGH ITS PRESENCE IN GENEVA INDISPENSABLE ONLY WHEN CONFERENCE TAKES UP GENERAL SETTLEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES.

4. PARIS ENERGY CONFERENCE: ASKED IF FRANCE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PREFER LIMITING CONFERENCE TO OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AND THOSE WHO WANT IT EXPANDED TO INCLUDE "ALL PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS," SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THIS IS OBJECT OF PROCEDURAL FIRST PHASE OF CONFERENCE. PROMISING PROCESS HAS BEGUN, HE STRESSED, AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR A COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISRUPTING THIS PROCESS.

5. SPANISH SAHARA: SAUVAGNARGUES STRESSED THAT FRANCE HAS NO POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA BEYOND DESIRE TO SEE PEACEFUL SOLUTION BUT SUPPORTS MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO THAT END. HE DENIED THAT FRANCE HAD PREPARED A SPECIAL DOSSIER ON THE SAHARA FOR THE ICJ. PARIS HAD INSTEAD REFERRED COURT TO PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH PROTECTORATE IN MOROCCO AS POSSIBLY GERMANE. COURT AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, HE ADDED, WILL HAVE ACCESS TO QUAI D'ORSAY ARCHIVES FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION IF THEY WISH.

6. COMMENT: SAUVAGNARGUES' COMMENTS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BROKEN NEW GROUND BUT THEY DO REFLECT CONTINUING VERY GOOD FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. WE DOUBT EITHER SIDE WILL ALLOW ATMOSPHERE PRECEDING GISCARD VISIT TO BE SERIOUSLY CLOUDED BY REMNANTS OF POST-COLONIAL ECONOMIC SETTLEMENT DIFFICULTIES. MOROCCANIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BY SAUVAGNARGUES, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.

7. GOM PROBABLY EXPECTED NO MORE IN WAY OF FRENCH SUPPORT

FOR ITS CLAIMS ON SPANISH SAHARA. FRENCH POSITION OF CAREFUL
NEUTRALITY HAS UNDERGONE NO APPARENT CHANGE SINCE ARTICULATED
BY SAUVAGNARGUES DURING HIS VISIT HERE LAST YEAR.

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